

FORT WHIPPLE, WEDNESDAY MAY 25, 1864.

## A ROAD TO THE GULF.

Since the unfortunate want of sagacity or the wilful neglect of Mr. Gadsden, deprived us of an outlet upon the Gulf of California, without going through Sonora, we must secure the best right of way through that State that the circumstances will admit of. We believe there is now no legal permission for the passing of American travellers and trains through its limits. By the fourth article of the Gadsden treaty it is stipulated that:

"The vessels and citizens of the United States shall, in all time, have free and uninterrupted passage through the Gulf of California, to and from their possessions situated north of the boundary line of the two countries. It being understood that this passage is to be by navigating the Gulf of California and the river Colorado, and not by land without the express consent of the Mexican government."

We are not aware that objection has been raised to the going and coming of our citizens at their will, and no obstacle was put in the way of Major Ferguson, of the California Volunteers, in his survey of the country between Tucson and Libertad, made in the autumn of 1862.

We have inadvertently neglected giving proper attention to the report of the results of that survey. In the language of General Carleton to General Thomas:

It is of great importance as showing how much cheaper supplies can be gotten for Arizona and the Mesilla valley, via Libertad, than from Indianola, Texas, or from Kansas City. The report is of still greater importance when considered with reference to the political and commercial geography of our country. It shows how practicable it is to make a railroad from the Rio Grande, to the Gulf of California, and thus to the Pacific. It shows how very important it is for us to purchase from Mexico, before it becomes a possession of, say, France, a strip of territory which will give us so fine and accessible a port on the Gulf of California.

However successful we may be in the navigation of the Colorado, and in finding practicable roads to California, or in obtaining transit privileges in Mexico, there can be no doubt that the ownership of a good port upon the Gulf of California is necessary to the convenience and proper development of our Territory. Moreover to Tucson, and all the region south of the Gila, the advantages to be gained by the extension of the American flag over a portion, if not over the whole of Sonora, are so palpable as to warrant every honorable effort for the acquisition of such territory. We confess to disappointment that our present clever minister to Mexico, Mr. Corwin, has not in view of the notorious defect in the Gadsden boundary line, the growing importance of our Pacific possessions, and the unsettled state of politics in Mexico, embraced the opportunity to acquire for the United States, the port of Libertad, if not that of Guaymas. We cannot believe that the negotiation would have been attended with a difficulty worth naming when compared with the great benefits to be derived from its success.

Major Ferguson describes the port of Libertad as a valuable one. The soundings show a depth of water sufficient for vessels of any tonnage; the holding ground is excellent, being generally of fine white sand and shell. The shore or beach is sandy, gravelly and pebbly. The banks are low, sandy loam, except the southern part, which consists of high bluffs of sand and shell of about a mile and a quarter in length, broken by ravines and gullies. The bay extends about five and three-fourths miles, and has a depth of about two miles near the centre; at Point Robinson a ledge of broken jagged rocks extends into the sea about four hundred yards. The constant ripple at this place indicates the presence of rocks, and the Major suggests that by extending a mole or breakwater in the direction of these rocks, four or five hundred yards, vessels could ride at anchor in the bay, to the south, with the greatest security in almost any storm. The country about the port is not altogether favorable for a town, but the obstacles are by no means insurmountable, and of the route from Tucson, the Major declares that he never saw a better natural road for such a distance, or one more favorable for a railroad, so far as the topographical features of the country are concerned.

We are not sure but that the port is a better one than Guaymas. It is as safe and accessible, and considerably farther up the Gulf. Its possession would necessitate our obtaining but a

comparatively small portion of Sonora, less than one third of the State. Its distance from Tucson is 226 miles, or but two-thirds of the distance to Guaymas.

It is desirable, however, for many reasons that we should hold the fee of Sonora in its entirety, and if it cannot be had without the purchase of Lower California, that district should be had at any reasonable cost. It is rich in minerals, and so situated geographically, to California and Arizona, as to rightly belong to us.

When we speak of the purchase of Sonora, we do so in view of matters as they now stand. We are yet at peace with Mexico and with France, and we would give no cause of complaint by any attempt to acquire territory by force of arms. Besides, we believe that a purchase from the Juarez government, which is still recognized in Sonora, might readily be effected. But in the not improbable event of trouble between the United States and France, the aspect would be changed, and there are few who doubt but that Sonora with its rich mines, its fine agricultural lands and its excellent ports, would quickly fall into the hands of our advancing armies. It is written in the book of destiny that by the negotiations of peace, or the arbitrament of the sword, that valuable State shall at no distant day owe allegiance only to the stars and stripes.

The attention of our readers is called to the report of Major Ferguson, which as it has not been widely circulated, we shall print in full, beginning to-day with the first installment.

## ACTIVE OPERATIONS BEGUN.

As announced in our last, General Carleton is to attack the Apaches with a formidable force. By this writing, five hundred of the California Volunteers, (1st Infantry,) under the intrepid Colonel Rigg, have reached the Territory from New Mexico, and begun a campaign which the General proposes, to use his own words, "To continue (God willing) until the Apaches are as completely subdued as the Navajos have been." The troops are in the great valley of the Gila, north of Fort Bowie, and will radiate in all directions. They will be kept in the field during all the season for growing crops, so that every hill of corn which the savages are raising will be destroyed. The reputation of Colonel Rigg, and of the men he has with him, is such as to lead us to expect great results from their movements, in conjunction with those to be made from this part of the Territory, and the efforts of the Governor of Sonora, who is on the war-path, and has lately slaughtered a goodly number of the barbarians.

The official report of the recent fight of Captain Whitlock, and his men, with the Apaches, near the Rio Prieto, places the killed at twenty-one, and the wounded at a large number. Altogether the vagabonds who have long retarded the settlement and prosperity of the Territory, are having, and are likely to have, a hard time of it. We congratulate our people everywhere upon the good prospect of an early and final settlement with them. Once rid of the treacherous savages, Arizona will go ahead at railroad speed, unless we are wholly mistaken in our calculations. A good evidence of the increasing confidence in our mines, is shown in the forming of new companies for their working. In the San Francisco, the Los Angeles and the New York papers, we notice numerous advertisements of new and substantial organizations. One of these, conspicuously announced in the latter, the "San Antonio Silver Company," is to operate upon a lode near the Patagonia Mine, of which Colonel Butterworth, who came to Arizona to inspect the Cerro Colorado Mine, is president, and publishes (as we presume he did of the Cerro Colorado) a good report. We are glad the Colonel did not allow the attack of the Apaches to depreciate his confidence in our mineral wealth. Another company, announced in New York, is called the "Picacho Silver Mining Company, of Arizona." It is under the presidency of L. W. Winchester, Esq. Both companies have large capital, and enterprising directors. We wish them, and all organizations for working our unequalled mines, the utmost success. We are confident that their operations, if properly carried on, will abundantly confirm the assertion of Ross Browne, that Arizona is the richest in gold and silver of any country on the continent of America.

MARSHAL DUFFIELD, and Messrs. Rogers, Warner, and Pierce, of Tucson, have gone to Guaymas. They will, excepting Mr. Rogers, proceed from there to California, for a brief visit. Messrs. Rogers and Pierce have a contract for transporting government freight for the Arizona military posts, from California, via Guaymas, to Tucson. A large amount has already been brought through.

## A WIDE DIFFERENCE.

Now and then we hear some one hint, (to use the mildest term,) that if the Apaches were cajoled, rather than fought, their hostility would be the more quickly overcome. The venerable story of William Penn's success with the aborigines is made to do service in defence of the theory, and is backed by other examples of the "poor Indian" policy. With those who comprehend the nature and habits of the Apaches, such arguments can have but little weight. They are altogether a different Indian from those appeased by Penn, or from any and all of the tribes with whom peace has been maintained by treaty. They are even more indifferent to obligations than the Navajos, who have won notoriety as treaty breakers. In a word they do not, or will not, understand the advantages of peace, and are destitute even of the selfish motive usual to the Indian character—the hope of reward. The fear of punishment alone checks their depredations, and only by the strong arm of the government can they be kept in subjection. It were idle to deck them with presents, or to talk to them of reservations. They disdain to work, and had rather steal than hunt. Murder is their pastime, and plunder their war-cry. Their ravages below the Gila, for years past, have well established their power and prowess; their recent outrages in this part of the Territory show most conclusively that nothing less than a liberal use of powder and shot will afford us security for our lives and property.

We favor the extermination policy or the complete overthrow of their power, from no thirst for blood, nor yet from the force of public sentiment, but for the simple reason that in our candid judgment it is absolutely necessary to the peace and prosperity of the country. No terms can be made with a base, a brutal, and a stealthy foe; no half-way measures can be effective with haughty savages who claim superiority to the whites, and who spare all efforts at conciliation. When they sue for peace, and by honest and quiet lives give proof of their sincerity, it will be time enough to talk of treaties and of reservations. For the present, let our war be vigorous and terrible; so shall it be short and decisive, and in the end the most humane and economical. We expect much from the proposed expeditions of Colonel Rigg and Colonel Woolsey, into the heart of the Apache country, the one starting from the neighborhood of Fort Bowie, and the other from this vicinity. They will carry the war where it must be felt. Washington, with his keen sagacity approved the plan. "My ideas of contending with the Indians," said he in 1779, "have been uniformly the same. I am clear in the opinion that the cheapest and most effectual mode of opposing them, where they can make incursions upon us, is to carry the war into their own country."

A recent number of the St. Paul Pioneer, holds the same doctrine regarding the Sioux war:

The experience of the past two years may and probably will suggest that, perhaps, the easiest way and quickest way to conquer the Indians is—while maintaining a sufficient guard upon the exposed border—to penetrate, seize and hold the country now occupied by them. Once dispossessed of their choice hunting grounds the Sioux will soon sue for peace and accept such terms as the interests of the border and the policy of the Government may dictate.

We are here prompted to compare the force sent against the Sioux to that provided for fighting the Navajo and the Apache. Had government given this Department one-half the troops it has placed at the disposal of General Pope, we should have been rid of our barbarous foe long ere this.

MONTANA.—The passage of the bill by which this new Territory (formed, we believe, of pieces from Idaho and Dakota,) was created excited considerable discussion in Congress. A strenuous effort was made in the Senate to have the name changed, and to give it an Indian appellation. The adopted name is, we think, unfortunate, as it has no special significance, since the new Territory is less "mountainous" as one of our national legislators expressed it, than some others.

EXPLORING PARTY.—A party, consisting of eleven men, under the command of D. Willing, an experienced pioneer, says the Sacramento Union, has been organized at San Francisco, for the purpose of exploring that region of country south of the Wahsatch mountains, in the northeast corner of Arizona Territory. Considerable money has been invested in the enterprise. Every man in the company is well armed.

GOVERNOR GOODWIN arrived at Fort Whipple yesterday, in excellent health and spirits, after an absence of two months in the southern part of the Territory. He speaks in glowing terms of the courteous reception given him at every point, and of the increasing prosperity of the country below the Gila. As we have already stated, he visited Tubac and the towns and mines on the border of Sonora. He represents Tucson as rapidly improving, and an agreeable place, spite all reports to the contrary. By request the citizens there he appointed the following civil officers, viz: Mayor, William S. Oury; Councilors, Mark Aldrich, Juan Elias Sena, Hiram S. Stevens, Francis S. Leon and Jeremiah Riordan. Mr. Oury is an old and well known resident of the Territory, a gentleman of culture and character. His appointment, and that of his associates, met general satisfaction, and will insure a strong municipal government. The Governor's appointments for District officers are also well liked.

Some time before the Governor left Tucson, Col. Davis had started to establish the new, for company post, north of Fort Bowie. In a letter from the latter place, dated May 7th, the Colonel describes a fight had with the Apaches at Double Cañon, in Steen's Peak Pass, on the 3d inst. by Company I, 5th California Volunteers, en route from Fort Cummings, under Lieut. Stevens. The fight and firing lasted for two hours. The Indians numbered one hundred, and fought desperately. Juan Arroyas, the Mexican guide, pronounced it the best Indian fight of many he had seen. Lieut. Stevens acted admirably; the first fire of the savages, his horse was killed and one man badly, and three slightly wounded. One man is reported missing. The troops behaved excellently. The Indians came upon the company most unexpectedly. Twenty to twenty-five were killed and a number wounded.

The Governor did all in his power to promote the campaign against the Apaches, about to be inaugurated and is hopeful of great success.

In our next we shall print the Governor's proclamation, calling the election for a delegate to Congress, and the members of the Legislature, fixing the places for holding the polls, and appointing the judges.

The election will be held on Monday, the 18th day of July.

MAJOR WILLIS has announced in General Orders that Fort Whipple, having been removed by orders from Department Headquarters, the old site will hereafter be known as "Camp Clark," in honor of Surveyor General Clark, who first visited the place, in August last. Most of the troops are now at the site of the new post, which is handsomely situated and laid out in strict accordance with the army regulations. On the fine mesa east of Granite Creek, and a couple of miles south of the post, a town site has been surveyed by Mr. Groom, and it is generally believed that the Governor will be prevailed upon to convene the Legislature there, in view of the strong desire to have it meet in this part of the Territory. It is certainly an attractive locality, and the name of "Prescott," proposed for the town, will be an appropriate commemoration of the great American authority upon Aztec and Spanish-American history.

NEWS.—The military express from Tucson and the States reached Fort Whipple on the 16th inst. We have New York papers to April 7th, the Denver journals to the 20th of the month, and New Mexican papers of the 30th.

The war news is not important. Lieutenant General Grant is preparing for active operations at various points.

The elections in Connecticut, Rhode Island and New Hampshire, have gone largely in favor of the Union candidates.

The Secretary of the Interior, in a letter to Speaker Colfax, accompanying statements of the Secretary of War, and Commissioner Dole, relative to a reservation for the Navajo Indians, at Bosque Redondo, New Mexico, recommends the appropriation of \$100,000 for agricultural implements and subsistence for the first year, after which they are expected to be self-sustaining. The Secretary of War deems this likely to be more economical than war expenditures. The warriors, now inclining to peaceful arts, have been at war for nearly two centuries. The numbers are estimated at from 5,000 to 7,000.

General McDowell is about to leave for California, to assume command of the forces in the State. It is understood that the President will constitute a department of California, Oregon and a portion of the adjoining Territories, and authorize the organization of ten new volunteer regiments.

Emigration from Indiana to the Territories of Idaho, Nevada, Arizona and Colorado is becoming brisk.

New York State, at a recent election, decided by over 210,000 majority, that soldiers should be allowed to vote.